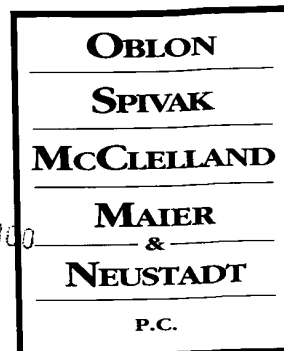




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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

EDWIN D. GARLEPP
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
(703) 413-3000
EGARLEPP@OBLON.COM

RE: U.S. Application
Serial No: 09/986,894
Filed: November 13, 2001
Inventor: Akira Yonemizu et al.
For: Substrate Processing Apparatus and Substrate
Processing Method

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$ --0-- is attached covering any required fees. In the event that any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330



22850

Tel. No.: (703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220
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IN RE APPLICATION OF:

AKIRA YONEMIZU ET AL.

GROUP: 2823

SERIAL NO: 09/986,894

EXAMINER: T. PHAM

FILED: NOVEMBER 13, 2001

FOR: SUBSTRATE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE PROCESSING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 23, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect without traverse Group I, Claims 1-21, directed to a substrate processing apparatus, for examination on the merits. Accordingly, an examination on the merits of the claims is believed to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330



22850

Tel. No.: (703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220
GJM:EDG:eac
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